

DNR Re-Opening March 21, 2022

FAQ's

What's happening?

DNR is re-opening its facilities to the public and moving to a modified Tier 3 under its Safe Start Plan on March 21, 2022. Only DNR facilities that were open to the public before the COVID-19 pandemic will re-open. Areas that will be opened are those in which DNR needs to interact or conduct business with the public, or areas identified by DNR for meetings or functions by other organizations. Employee work areas where public interaction is not needed or expected will not be open to the public.

Are there specific changes at the Natural Resources Building (NRB)?

DNR and the other NRB tenant agencies are implementing new access protocols. All visitors to the NRB must enter and exit through the rotunda. All visitors must sign in through iLobby. An agency escort is required for entry into secured areas; temporary key cards will no longer be issued to visitors. The only unsecured areas are the parking garage, the tunnel/loading dock, storage rooms that can only be accessed from outside the building, the parking garage elevators/escalator, and the rotunda. The freight elevator may not be used for routine passenger transportation.

May I now bring my infant to work?

DNR's Infants in the Workplace program will continue to be suspended until DNR moves to Tier 4 under its Safe Start Plan.

Do DNR employees need to wear a mask in DNR facilities?

Effective March 21, DNR employees will not be required to wear a mask in DNR facilities. All employees are welcome to wear a mask as a personal preference.

Are there circumstances when DNR employees will still need to wear a mask?

Yes: 1) DNR employees must wear a mask if they are inside a correctional facility, a medical facility, a long-term care facility, or a transportation hub such as an airport or bus station; 2) DNR employees must wear a mask when traveling on public transportation (e.g., airline, train, light rail, bus); 3) DNR employees (and all other vehicle occupants) must wear a mask when transporting non-DNR employees if the other persons are not state or federal employees or elected officials.

Additionally, a DNR employee who has been in close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 must wear a mask in the workplace for 14 days following the close contact, except when working alone.

Are members of the public required to wear a mask while in a DNR facility?

The public will not be required to wear a mask either outdoors or while in a DNR building.

Why is this happening on March 21?

DNR and several other state agencies are ready to take another step forward through the COVID-19 pandemic. All state employees are now fully vaccinated or appropriately accommodated. Over seventy percent of all Washingtonians over the age of five are now fully vaccinated. New infections, hospitalizations, and deaths are declining. The COVID-19 pandemic has subsided to the extent that masking is no longer required in most situations. All DNR employees will continue to perform the daily

health self-screening before reporting to a DNR facility. Sanitation practices remain in place and will be adjusted as needed to address public entry into parts of DNR facilities. All four NRB tenant agencies (DNR, AGR, DFW, RCO) are re-opening their facilities together on March 21.

How many people will be allowed in a DNR facility at any given time?

There will be no cap on re-occupancy of DNR facilities. We will staff at levels that support normal business interactions.

What about telework?

DNR-directed Emergency Telework will end on March 21. DNR will begin a transition to Elective Telework; this transition must be completed by June 1. Appointing Authorities are responsible for managing this transition. During this transition, employees may continue to telework with the knowledge and approval of their Appointing Authority, provided that telework supports DNR's business needs and allows DNR to provide the full range and level of services expected by the public. Elective Telework approvals do not have to be immediately in place.

What about self-screening?

All DNR employees entering a DNR facility or worksite must continue to complete the daily self-screening using their Region/Division link before reporting for work (unless working alone). If you move between facilities, you do not have to repeat the daily self-screening at each location, just once before starting your day.

For questions contact DNRRECOVIDSAFESTART@dnr.wa.gov